

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-03 H-02 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 EA-10 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-10

NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 FTC-01 OIC-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC 7480

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 14992

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR KNAUER

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TAGS: EIND, OECD

SUBJECT: CONSUMER POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING, JUNE 3-4

REF: CCP/A(75)1

1. SUMMARY. CONSUMER POLICY COMMITTEE MET JUNE 3-4, 1975, AND APPROVED REPORTS ON GUIDELINES FOR SAFETY CONTROLS OVER HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS, AND PACKAGE STANDARDIZATION. COMMITTEE AGREED TO INFORMALLY COORDINATE WORK ON LABELLING WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATION, AND TO EXTEND WP 5'S MANDATE TO REVIEW UNDESIRABLE MARKETING PRACTICES. US DELEGATE VIRGINIA KNAUER, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DR. DAVID PITTLE, COMMISSIONER, CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, JOHN FISCHBACH, FTC, AND MARTIN FORRESTER, USOECD. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 2-3, 1975. -
END SUMMARY.

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2. AGENDA ITEMS 1, 2 AND 3 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

LORENZO (FRANCE) WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN, SUCCEEDING SEABORN OF CANADA. MRS. VIRGINIA KNAUER (US) WAS REELECTED VICE-CHAIRMAN; RAMBOW (FRG), BROCH (NORWAY), GODART (BELGIUM) AND COFFIN (UK) WERE ELECTED TO THE BUREAU. AGENDA WAS ADOPTED AND MINUTES OF TENTH MEETING WERE APPROVED WITHOUT DEBATE.

3. AGENDA ITEM 4 - CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY.

COMMITTEE APPROVED WP3 REPORT ON GUIDELINES FOR SAFETY CONTROLS OVER HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS WITH MINOR LANGUAGE CHANGES. REPORT WILL BE CIRCULATED BY END OF AUGUST. WP3 CHAIRMAN MCINTYRE (UK) INVITED US DEL TO REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER PITTLE DELIVERED WELL-RECEIVED ORAL REPORT WHICH INCLUDED FOLLOWING POINTS: SOME 20 PERCENT OF 20 MILLION CONSUMER PRODUCT-RELATED INJURIES THAT OCCUR EACH YEAR COULD BE AVOIDED BY PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARDS; STANDARDS ARE CURRENTLY BEING REVIEWED FOR BICYCLES, ARCHITECTURAL GLASS, MATCHES, AEROSOL SPRAYS AND CHILDREN'S SLEEPWEAR. PITTLE GAVE INTERESTING DISCOURSE ON POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO OZONE LAYER CAUSED BY FREON 11-12, A WIDELY USED AEROSOL PROPELLANT GAS, AND NOTED THAT A SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF THE PROBLEM WILL BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER, 1976. QUESTION IS WHETHER TO BAN FREON 11-12 NOW OR LATER, SINCE SAFER ALTERNATIVE PROPELLANTS EXIST. PITTLE OBSERVED ANY DAMAGE TO ATMOSPHERE IS A CONCERN OF ALL NATIONS; THEREFORE NATIONS SHOULD CONCERT ACTIONS. UK DEL WARMLY PRAISED REPORT; SAID EUROPE LESS ADVANCED THAN US IN TERMS OVERALL PROGRESS IN FIELD OF CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY; ASKED IF US COULD CIRCULATE NOTE SUMMARIZING PITTLE'S STATEMENT (US AGREED), AND ASKED "WHY WAIT UNTIL 1976 BEFORE BANNING FREON SINCE ALTERNATIVE PROPELLANTS ALREADY EXIST?" NETHERLANDS DEL NOTED LOW BICYCLE ACCIDENT RATE IN NETHERLANDS, AND ASKED IF HIGH BICYCLE ACCIDENT RATE IN US IS RESULT OF FAULTY CONSTRUCTION OR CARELESSNESS.

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PITTLE REPLIED THAT 20 PERCENT OF ACCIDENTS ARE RESULT OF FAULTY CONSTRUCTION OR POOR LIGHTING, AND THAT EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN HAVE NOT BEEN EFFECTIVE. CANADIAN DEL SAID GOVERNMENTS SHOULD HARMONIZE TOY SAFETY STANDARDS. LORENZO STATED HARMONIZATION IS DIFFICULT.

4. AGENDA ITEM 5 - LABELLING.

COMMITTEE APPROVED WP2 REPORT ON PACKAGE STANDARDIZATION, UNIT PRICING AND DECEPTIVE PACKAGING WITH MINOR LANGUAGE CHANGES. COMMITTEE AGREED TO:
A) GIVE URGENT SUPPORT TO DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR WARNING LABELS FOR HAZARDOUS PREPACKAGED CONSUMER PRODUCTS; B) INVITE EXPERTS OF NATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL WARNING LABELS, AND C) NOTE THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATION (ISO) MAY EXTEND ITS WORK ON WARNING LABELS TO DANGEROUS HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS AND OTHER CONSUMER GOODS. (AS IN PAST, GILMER CAUTION-
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ED COMMITTEE THAT SINCE ISO IS NON-GOVERNMENTAL BODY,
CONTACTS WITH IT SHOULD BE ON INFORMAL, PERSONAL
BASIS.)

5. AGENDA ITEM 6 - FUTURE WORK.

SECRETARIAT (GILMER) SAID THAT IN CONSIDERING FUTURE
WORK, COMMITTEE SHOULD BE MINDFUL THAT ITS MANDATE
EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 1977 AND COUNCIL WILL REVIEW PRO-
GRAM IN MID-1977. SECRETARIAT THEN INVITED DELEGATIONS
TO MAKE PROPOSALS BY MARCH, 1976.

6. AGENDA ITEM 7 - COUNTRY REPORTS-

DELEGATIONS REPORTED ON CONSUMER POLICY
DEVELOPMENTS DURING YEAR IN RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, AND
COMMITTEE APPROVED PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT
REPORTS.

7. AGENDA ITEM 8 - UNDESIRABLE MARKETING PRACTICES.

COMMITTEE APPROVED REPORT BY AD HOC GROUP (WP-5) WITH
MINOR CHANGES, AND RECOMMENDED AN EXTENSION OF WP 5'S
MANDATE. WP 5 WILL MEET OCTOBER 3 TO EXAMINE LIST
OF PRINCIPAL UNDESIRABLE MARKETING PRACTICES WHICH
SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE. THIS LIST WILL FORM BASIS OF
A QUESTIONNAIRE WHICH SECRETARIAT WILL SUBMIT TO
DECEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING.

8. AGENDA ITEM 9 - CONSUMER CREDIT.

WP4 CHAIRMAN GAVE ORAL REPORT COVERING CONSUMER PRO-
TECTIONS AS REGARDS CONSUMER CREDIT, REVIEWING, IN
GENERAL TERMS, CREDIT CONTRACTS, ADVERTISING, ROLE OF
INTERMEDIARIES AND DEFENSE OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.

9. AGENDA ITEM 10 - OTHER BUSINESS.

WP 5 WILL MEET DECEMBER 1, 1975; THE BUREAU MEETS
DECEMBER 2 AND THE COMMITTEE DECEMBER 2 AND 3.
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